

News Journal

FRIDAY, 01.20.17 || MANSFIELD, OHIO || MANSFIELDNEWSJOURNAL.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



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Photographer and author Gary Zuercher will exhibit his work, *The Glow of Paris: The Bridges of Paris at Night*, at the Mansfield Art Center. The exhibit opens on Saturday.

Photographer brings the 'Glow of Paris' to Mansfield

Zuercher spent five years photographing the 35 bridges on winter nights

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REPORTER

MANSFIELD - The bridges of Paris are the hyphens between the sides of the Seine, Gary Zuercher said, quoting a French author.

"She went on to say, in French, 'We look at them, we drive across them, we bicycle across them, we walk across them. We look at them, but we don't really see them,'" said Zuercher, a former Mansfield resident.

But Zuercher's 86 black and white photos bring into focus the beauty of

the 35 bridges that span the Seine River in the City of Light.

The *Glow of Paris: The Bridges of Paris at Night*, featuring work from Zuercher's book by the same title, opens Saturday at Mansfield Art Center and runs through February 26.

"This exhibition is an exercise of seeing the bridges as they really are instead of as utilities," Zuercher said.

The work is the product of five years spent photographing bridges on winter nights in Paris and then developing film in his darkroom. Zuercher uses a digital camera to decide where to place his film camera and how to set the exposure, but his final products are all shot on film.

Each of the images in the exhibition is done in the Ansel Adams tradition—over-exposed and underdeveloped.

The first of these images, Zuercher said, he created by accident after feeling certain he had ruined a shot through over-exposure.

"When the negative came out of the chemical bath, it was luminous. It glowed. It was beautiful. It just took my breath away," Zuercher said. "I thought, 'You know, I might like to just shoot all 35 of the bridges at night and make a project of it.'"

Zuercher figured the photography would take about a year. Instead, it took five.

"I could spend weeks on a single bridge until I really got the shot I wanted," Zuercher said.

Zuercher took all his shots in the winter when the sun sets earlier and

See **PARIS**, Page 2A